

## FARMER IS THE PAY- MASTER OF INDUSTRY

The farmer is the paymaster of industry and as such he must meet the nation's payroll. When industry pays its bill it must make a slight draft upon agriculture for the amount, which the farmer is compelled to honor without protest. This check drawn upon agriculture may travel to and fro over the highways of commerce; may build cities; girdle the globe with bands of steel; may search hidden treasures in the earth or traverse the skies, but in the end it will rest upon the soil. No dollar will remain suspended in midair; it is as certain to seek the earth's surface as an apple that falls from a tree.

When a farmer buys a plow he pays the man who mined the metal, the woodman who felled the tree, the manufacturer who assembled the raw material and shaped it into an article of usefulness, the railroad that transported it and the dealer who sold him the goods. He pays the wages of labor and capital employed in the transaction as well as pays for the tools, machinery, buildings, etc., used in the construction of the commodity and the same applies to all articles of use and diet of himself and those engaged in the subsidiary lines of industry.

There is no payroll in civilization that does not rest upon the back of the farmer. He must pay the bills—all of them.

The total value of the nation's annual agricultural products is around \$12,000,000,000, and it is safe to estimate that 95 cents on every dollar goes to meeting the expenses of subsidiary industries. The farmer does not work more than thirty minutes per day for himself; the remaining thirteen hours of the day's toil he devotes to meeting the payroll of the hired hands of agriculture, such as the manufacturer, railroad, commercial and other servants.

### The Farmer's Payroll and How He Meets It.

The annual payroll of agriculture approximates \$12,000,000,000. A portion of the amount is shifted to foreign countries in exports, but the total payroll of industries working for the farmer divides substantially as follows: Railroads, \$1,232,000,000; manufacturers, \$4,335,000,000; mining, \$655,000,000; banks, \$200,000,000; mercantile, \$3,500,000,000, and a heavy miscellaneous payroll constitutes the remainder.

It takes the corn crop, the most valuable in agriculture, which sold last year for \$1,332,000,000, to pay off the employees of the railroads; the money derived from our annual sales of livestock of approximately \$2,000,000,000, the yearly cotton crop valued at \$920,000,000; the wheat crop, which is worth \$610,000,000, and the oat crop, that is worth \$440,000,000, are required to meet the annual payroll of the manufacturers. The money derived from the remaining staple crops is used in meeting the payroll of the bankers, merchants, etc. After these obligations are paid, the farmer has only a few bunches of vegetables, some fruit and poultry which he can sell and call the proceeds his own.

When the farmer pays off his help he has very little left and to meet these tremendous payrolls he has been forced to mortgage homes, work women in the field and increase the hours of his labor. We are, therefore, compelled to call upon all industries dependent upon the farmers for subsistence to retrench in their expenditures and to cut off all unnecessary expenses. This course is absolutely necessary in order to avoid a reduction in wages, and we want, if possible, to retain the present wage scale paid railroad and all other industrial employees.

We will devote this article to a discussion of unnecessary expenses and whether required by law or permitted by the management of the concerns, is wholly immaterial.

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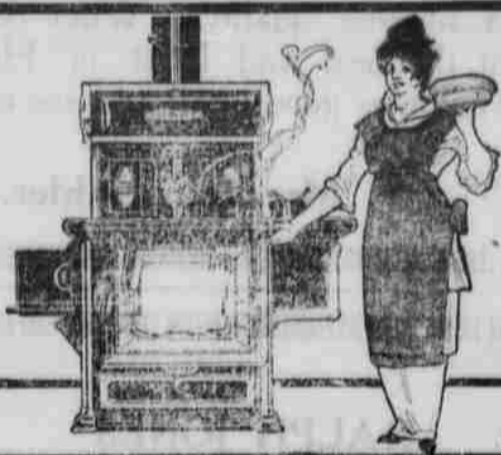
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